

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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56

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 117, AUGUST 1, 6 PM

REVIEWED BY *Amstrong*

1:30 PM

DATE *8/1/68*

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
 TS AUTH. REASON(S)
 ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
 DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE ☐
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 PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

ACTION BONN 101, DEPARTMENT 117, INFORMATION LONDON 66,
 MOSCOW 58, PARIS 62, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, VIENNA, BERN,
 PRAGUE UNNUMBERED, POLAD USAREUR 54, THE HAGUE 1.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, KOHLER, USRO, STOESSER AND FINN.

REF OURTEL 97 DEPARTMENT, 83 BONN.

GDR HEALTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT BECAUSE OF POLIO
 THREAT FROM WEST GERMANY IT HAD REQUESTED EAST GERMAN INTERIOR
 MINISTRY TO TAKE MEASURES IN INTERZONAL TRAVEL "WHICH WOULD
 PROVIDE BEST PROTECTION FOR POPULATION." STATEMENT CARRIED
 IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND OTHER EAST BERLIN PAPERS AUGUST ONE
 SAID THESE MEASURES WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE ALREADY ADOPTED
 BY OTHER COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING ON WEST GERMANY. IT ASSERTED
 DECISION WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE FEDREP HAD REFUSED ACCEPT GDR
 OFFER OF ORAL POLIO VACCINE, AND THAT HOSPITALIZATION OF
 ADDITIONAL FEDREP CITIZENS VISITING EAST GERMANY WAS PROOF
 OF POLIO THREAT FROM WEST GERMANY.

COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT DESCRIBE WHAT MEASURES WOULD
 BE TAKEN BY GDR, OR WHAT MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN BY OTHER
 COUNTRIES AGAINST WEST GERMAN TRAVEL, BUT NATIONAL ZEITUNG
 ASSERTED THAT DUTCH AUTHORITIES HAD PROHIBITED ENTRY TO
 GROUP OF WEST GERMAN CHILDREN BECAUSE OF POLIO THREAT. REGIME
 PRESUMABLY THINKS POLIO THREAT IS PLAUSIBLE PRETEXT FOR
 STRINGENT POLICE MEASURES CURBING TRAVEL EAST GERMANS.

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO NAME OF OFFICER OFFICE SYMBOL	PUP P3-TH 256	ACTION TAKEN DATE OF ACTION	NPN 8-1-68	DIRECTIONS IN FILE	2
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